



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor
Thursday, February 21, 2019
1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Amy Jones, Chair
Hailey Brooks
Kelly Drummond
Jenny Harlan
Rob Mortensen
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea

Members Absent

Genesis Hardin
Destiny Sweeney
Glenda Terry

Staff Present

Jennifer Drake-Croft
Cory Bradfield
Laritha Fentress
Craig Hargrow
Sumita Keller 1:17 PM
Melissa McGee
Jerri Moore
Jill Murphy
Gerald Papica
Steve Petty

I. Welcome and Introductions – Amy Jones, Chair

Jones called the Children's Services Committee meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum for the meeting was established. Seven of ten Commission Members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

There was no discussion, comment or correction.

**IT WAS MOVED (MORTENSEN) AND SECONDED (NEELEY) TO APPROVE THE
JUNE 14, 2018 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

III. Ombudsman Program Update – Gerald Papica

From October 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019, the Ombudsman Program received 42 new referrals. The case types are as follows: 40 (95%) Open/Active Cases and 2 (5%) Information-only Cases. The active cases include one tracking case. Tracking cases are foster parents or foster home-related complaints. Twenty-five cases or 59.5% of new referrals were obtained from four regions (Davidson 7, South Central 7, Northeast, 6, and Smoky Mountain 5). For the same reporting period last year (2017-2018), 47 new cases were received. For the last two years, there is consistency with the number of referrals received by the Ombudsman Program.

Please refer to handouts distributed to the Children's Services Committee covering a span of four months.

The transition from Remedy Ombudsman database (console-based) to SharePoint Ombudsman (web-based) was completed and went live in November 2018. Information from closed, inactive referrals (October 2009 – September 2018) were archived and can be accessed as needed. The new database still needs some improvements and a few modifications but the system is presently operational.

Along with managing Ombudsman Program caseloads, Dr. Papica participated in DCS Child and Family Team Meetings (8x), Davidson County Foster Care Review Boards (3x), Second Look Commission Meetings (2x), and DHS Daycare Licensing Board of Review or BOR (3x). These BORs were chaired by Dr. Papica.

Dr. Papica remains active with the United States Ombudsman Association (USOA) as the Vice President, instructor for New Ombudsman Training, participant in the Children's Chapter, and member of the USOA conference planning committee. The planning committee for this year has 14 members and began their initial teleconference in the latter part of January. Their annual conference will take place in Honolulu, Hawaii.

IV. Building Strong Brains Update – Jennifer Drake-Croft

Drake-Croft worked with several partners including Dr. Mona Ivey-Soto, a professor at Belmont, and Mackenzie Price with the FrameWorks Institute to make revisions to the Building Strong Brains TN curriculum. These revisions include a focus on the relationship between implicit bias, racism and ACEs.

Between November and February, the TCCY BSB team conducted three additional training for trainers events in Memphis, Nashville, and Chattanooga. This brings the total number of trainers to 959. To date, these trainers have presented to an additional 38,830 participants across the state.

Drake-Croft has been working with TCCY staff and with DCS partners to develop training content for four "Brain Frame: How to Talk About Development" training opportunities to be held in late spring/early summer. The intent of these trainings are to improve the framing capacity among advocates in Tennessee to utilize consistent, research-based communication on brain development, toxic stress, ACEs and strategies to build resilience.

Drake-Croft has also continued to work with FrameWorks and TCCY staff on the development and execution of the Building Strong Brains TN social media campaign.

V. Council on Children's Mental Health and System of Care Across Tennessee Updates – Melissa McGee and Jerri Moore

CCMH will hold the first meeting of 2019 on February 28th and will focus on the restructure of the governance structure for advancement of system of care/SOCAT values and principles, as well as strategies for sustaining a statewide system of care. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are:

Thursday, April 25, 2019
Thursday, June 20, 2019
Thursday, August 22, 2019
Thursday, October 10, 2019

At present, the restructure of CCMH is establishing engagement amongst high-level participants, (assistant-commissioner level or above) and receiving commitments from each child-serving departments, agency and entity identified in the 2008 legislation establishing the Council. This committed group will serve as the governance structure for the SOCAT work and provide better opportunity to identify sustainable funding sources for a statewide system of care.

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) recently released the SOCAT Year One Evaluation report showing a total of 109 children, youth and young adults served in FY 17-18, presence in 37 counties, expansion to seven new sites, and outcomes showing greater than 90 percent of participants remaining in the home and out of hospitals, emergency rooms, Department of Children's Services custody and juvenile detention.

Jerri Moore, West Tennessee SOCAT Divisional Coordinator, continues to participate in community events and support local SOCAT teams and expansion efforts, as well as continuing the certification process as a National Wraparound Implementation Coach and Trainer. She has co-trained the Introduction to Wraparound (twice) and Engagement to Wraparound and is continuing to coach West TN SOCAT providers, and others statewide as needed. She is also working with SWCCY Regional Coordinator Rodger Jowers on planning a SOCAT event in May.

Laritha Fentress, Middle Tennessee SOCAT Divisional Coordinator, in collaboration with SOCAT and the Department of Children's Services, is helping establish a new site for FY19 in Lawrence County. Laritha continues to support expansion and SOCAT knowledge throughout her region, including planning a SOCAT Lunch and Learn with SCCC Regional Coordinator, Shaun Noblit, in Lawrenceburg on March 25th for identified mental health care providers, DCS & juvenile court staff.

Jill Murphy, East Tennessee SOCAT Divisional Coordinator, is working with ETCCY Regional Coordinator Lindsey Cody to plan a SOCAT awareness event for April 12th in Sevier and surrounding counties to welcome Helen Ross McNabb as a provider and to educate the community on SOCAT. She continues to support SOCAT sites and expansion throughout the East region.

Discussion:

1. Drummond praised the work of Murphy as the SOCAT Divisional Coordinator in Knox County area. McGee commented that she is glad but not surprised that the divisional coordinators are doing fantastic jobs.

VI. Home Visiting Leadership Alliance Update – Sumita Keller

Keller reported HVLA met twice since our last Commission meeting in October; on December 4th and February 12th. At the December 4th meeting we heard from the Parents as Teachers Starfish program in Bradley County. They are a unique partner of HVLA as they do not receive funding from the Tennessee Department of Health or the Department of Human Services. At the December meeting, Jonquil Newland introduced herself and provided a brief presentation on kidcentraltn.

At the February 12th meeting, our partners at the Department of Education presented on Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS). This presentation is a part of the more intentional effort to coordinate and collaborate between TEIS and evidence-based home visiting. At the February meeting, the group also discussed education/outreach efforts in the current legislative session. Advocates, providers and national home visiting models are exploring increased state funding opportunities for the Department of Health and federal TANF funding opportunities through the Department of Human Services.

The next HVLA meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at Lentz Public Health Center, Metro Health Department in Nashville.

VII. Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council Update – Cory Bradfield

No council meetings were held since the last update due to the strategic planning process.

TNYCWC has approved a strategic planning proposal and contracted with Strategy and Leadership as our planning consultants

Bradfield, Keller, Kennedy, and Sloan met with consultants on 01/03 and 01/17, issued a survey to general TNYCWC participants to solicit input for strategic planning, and selected 24 TNYCWC participants for interviews. Strategic Planning Consultants begin interviews this week.

In addition, the group Issued invitations to 50 TNYCWC participants for an in-person strategy session in March.

TNYCWC agreed in principle to serve as the committee for a project funded by an early childhood education-planning grant from the Pritzker Foundation

- Consultants begin interviews this week
- Met with full team on 01/17, 02/07
- Conference call with policy team 01/25
- Assisted with grant writing 01/17-02/15

VIII. Youth Transitions Advisory Council Update – Steve Petty

The Youth Transitions Advisory Council will meet May 2 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee. The Council tries not to meet during legislative session. However, the legislature will likely still be in session.

DCS has decided to turn over case management responsibilities for the youth in Extension of Foster Care Services to Youth Villages LifeSet. The target date for completion of the transition to Youth Villages was February 15. DCS Independent Living Specialists will take over all transition planning for DCS youth. Transition planning for DCS youth is supposed to begin at age 14 and be included in every child's permanency plan.

Discussions:

1. Papica asked to clarify who the children are that get involved with Extension of Foster Care. Petty explained that these are the children who aged out of the system and voluntarily opted to remain with DCS to get education, employment, housing, etc. Youth Villages handles the case management part of it.
2. Jones confirmed if Independent Living is a component of Extension Foster Care. Petty verified that her understanding is correct. He added that there is a DCS Independent Living Specialist assigned in every region. Mortensen and Keller remarked that the program is very helpful and caters to individual needs.
3. Neeley shared his experienced while working with Youth Villages. He worked with older teens needing Independent Living skills.
4. Hailey benefited from the Independent Living transition plan. She recommended that it should be made available to those who are eligible.

IX. Other Business

Hargrow stated he would present the Second Look Commission update to the full Commission.

**MORTENSEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. SHEA SECONDED.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:37p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Gerald R. Papica, Ombudsman Program Director

Amy Jones, Committee Chair